

Fruits Basket

TOKUMA



4

Natsuki Takaya

Fruits Basket



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Natsuki Takaya

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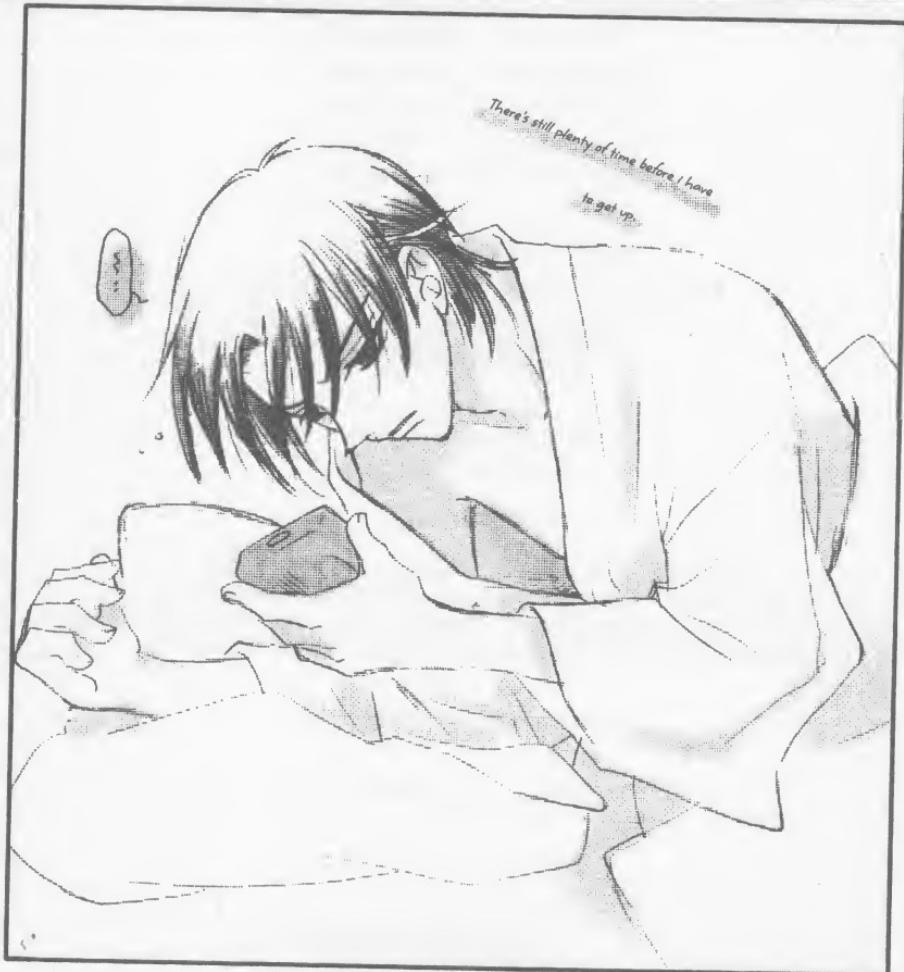






Fruits Basket™

Volume 4



Natsuki Takaya

STORY SO FAR...

Hello, I'm Tohru Honda, and I have come to know a terrible secret. After the death of my mother, I was living by myself in a tent when the Sohma family took me in. I soon learned that the Sohma family lives with a curse! Each family member is possessed by the vengeful spirit of an animal from the Chinese Zodiac. Whenever one of them becomes weak or is hugged by a member of the opposite sex, they change into their Zodiac animal!



Fruits Basket™

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Fruits Basket Characters



Kagura Sohma

Stubborn and jealous as her Zodiac symbol, the Boar, Kagura is determined to marry Kyo... even if she kills him in the process.

Momiji Sohma

Playful and carefree as the Rabbit he turns into, Momiji is the youngest member of the Sohma family that Tohru has met. He's half German and half Japanese, and switches casually between the two languages. His father owns the building where Tohru works.



Akito Sohma

The mysterious leader of the Sohma clan, the other family members treat him with equal measures of fear and reverence. Tohru hasn't met him... yet.



Hanajima & Arisa

"A psychic freak and a yankee thug." The two best friends a girl could hope for. They always look out for Tohru; they've become friends with Yuki and Kyo as well.



Hatsuharu Sohma

Usually cool, calm and collected, like a cow, Haru turns into a raging bull when his "Black" personality comes out. He's a rival to Kyo and a friend to Yuki (after years of unfounded animosity). Believe it or not, Haru and Momiji are in the same grade!



Tohru Honda

The ever-optimistic hero of our story. Recently orphaned, Tohru has taken up residence in Shigure Sohma's house, along with Yuki and Kyo. She's the only person outside of the Sohma family who knows about their Zodiac curse.



Yuki Sohma

At school he's known as Prince Charming. Polite and soft-spoken, he's the polar opposite of Kyo. Yuki is possessed by the spirit of the Rat.



Kyo Sohma

Just as the Cat of legend (whose spirit possesses him) was left out of the Zodiac, Kyo is ostracized by the Sohma family. His greatest wish in life is to defeat Yuki in battle and win his rightful place in the Zodiac.



Shigure Sohma

The enigmatic Shigure keeps a house outside of the Sohma estate where he lives with Yuki, Kyo and Tohru. He may act perverted at times, but he has a good heart. His Zodiac spirit is the Dog.



Hatori Sohma

The family doctor of the Sohma clan and one of the Juunichi (his symbol is the Dragon, which manifests as a seahorse). When Akito wills it, he erases the memories of those who stumble upon the family's secret. Hatori once had to erase the memories of the woman he loved, and ever since has been firmly against letting anyone else know the secret—even Tohru.

Fruits Basket™



Chapter 19

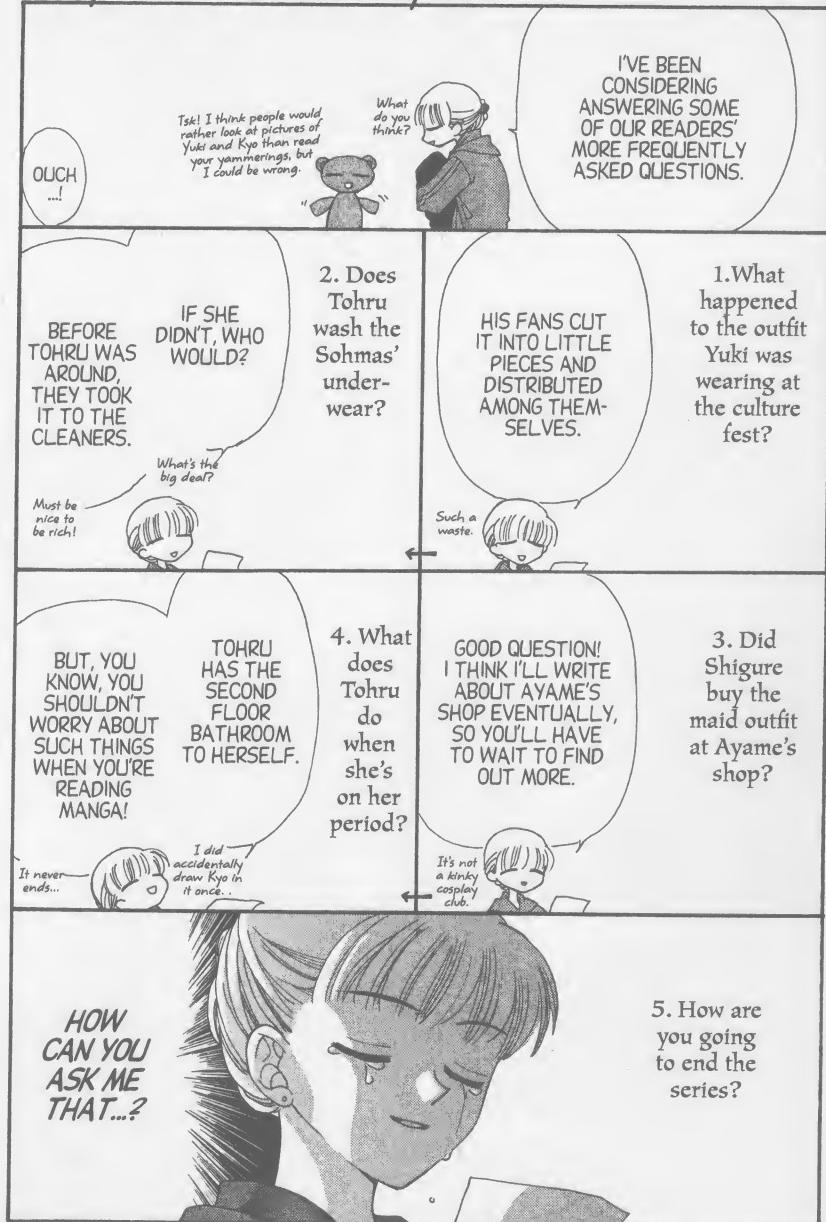


ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH 1

I forgot to mention it last time, but starting with volume 3, there will be character introductions and summaries at the beginning of each volume. I mean, there already are! I meant to do it earlier, but I just didn't have the time. At last, another Takaya dream is realized! (ha ha!)

NOTE: These features were added in Vol. 2 of the English edition.

A story that's near and dear to my heart.



Fruits Basket 4
Part 1:

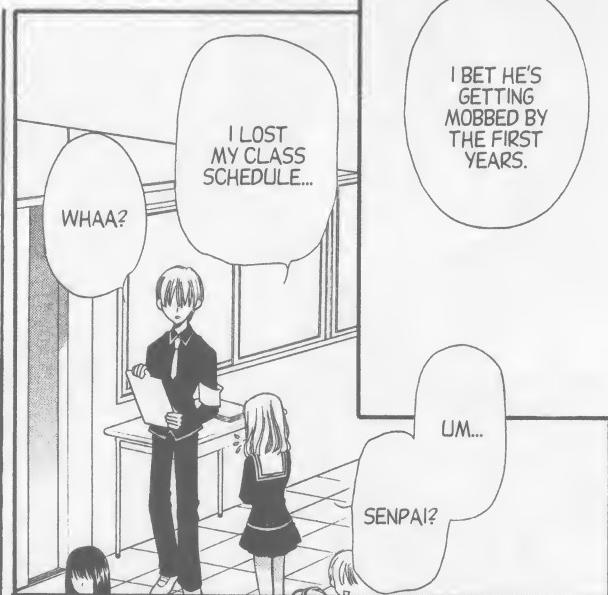
Hajimemashite!
(That's Japanese for "how do you do.") Takaya here. Furuba has made it to volume 4!

As each volume is released, the big picture starts to reveal itself. Until now, I've had to keep my gloating to myself! It feels so much better to let it out! (Ha!) But "Guretschi."

Guretschi the jellyfish: I keep getting letters begging, "please say he isn't over 25!" Sorry.

Shigure is 27. Don't worry--a man's stock only goes up as he gets older! Oh yeah, Shigure's name is pronounced without an accent--the intonation doesn't go up or down.

So now you know. Okay, as usual I'm exhausted, but Furuba is raring to go--so let's get on with it!



AUTHOR'S NOTE:
ACTUALLY,
THERE ARE
SOME NEW
SOHMAS
STARTING
HERE, SO...

AH! YES,
HE WAS
HERE.

TOHRU-KUN,
I EARLIER PICKED
UP SOME WAVES
THAT SEEMED TO
BE COMING FROM
YOUR GUARDIAN,
SHIGURE-SAN...

...I JUST HAVE
TO GO BY THE
SCHOOL AND
BEHOLD THEIR
MAGNIFICENCE.

HAA-KUN AND
MOMITCHI ARE
LIKE LITTLE
BROTHERS
TO ME...

NO, NO, NO!
YOUNG PEOPLE
THESE DAYS
HAVE NO
SENSE OF
ROMANTICISM!

HE'S
AN IDIOT.

YOU DON'T
THINK I'M
GOING JUST TO
LOOK AT HIGH
SCHOOL GIRLS,
DO YOU?

I WONDER
WHAT THOSE
STERN,
SUSPICIOUS
VISAGES
COULD
POSSIBLY
PORTEND?

SATOMI ARIMORI,
AGE 15, SCORPIO,
BLOOD TYPE B,
MY HOBBY IS
CRAFTS, AND MY
BEST FEATURE
IS MY SLENDER
ANKLES!!

OF COURSE
I CAN!!

YOU
DO
NOT
!!

Look
at me!
Look
at me!

I-I'M RINA
SONOMIYA.
PEOPLE SAY
I LOOK LIKE
NORIKA FUJI-
WARA*

CAN YOU
TELL ME
YOUR NAME
AND WHICH
CLASS
YOU'RE IN?

I'M TOO
FREAKED
OUT TO BE
JEALOUS,
SOHMA...

* A famous actress who starred in the GTO drama, she's also a model. Her official web site is: www.norikanesque.com

I DON'T
THINK
YUKI-KUN
WOULD
WANT
THAT...

Our current
leader has
issues.

PRINCE
CHARMING
MIGHT EVEN
MAKE CLASS
PRESIDENT
THIS YEAR.







HAVE I LOST MY MIND...?



Trying to look sharp!









HIS
BLACK
SIDE!!

YOU
THINK
YOU'RE
GOD?!
WELL?!
DO YOU?!

WHO THE
HELL DO
YOU THINK
YOU ARE?

DON'T CALL
ME STUPID!
I'M GOING TO
SMACK YOU,
YOU DAMN
PUNK!!

OH
YEAH?

ENOUGH!
CUT IT OUT!
YOU CAN'T
FIGHT AN
AMATEUR...

STAY OUT
OF THIS, YOU
STUPID CAT!!

THAT'S
INCREDIBLE!
SAY SOME-
THING, GOD!!

MAKE A
SOUND!!

PRESIDENT!! PRESIDENT!!

WHAA-

WHAT?!

HARU...

ぎょ

LET ME
ASK YOU
THIS...

IF I WEAR A
THREE-PIECE
SUIT, DOES IT
MEAN I WON'T
RESORT TO
BLACKMAIL?

IF I WON'T
PIERCE MY
EARS, DOES
IT MEAN I
WON'T BREAK
SOMEONE'S
HEART?

IF MY HAIR IS
BLACK AND
SHINY, DOES
IT MEAN I
WON'T KILL
YOU?!

...YOU
ARROGANT
SON
OF A
BITCH.

SHUT
THE
HELL
UP...

YOU'RE
REALLY
PISSING ME
OFF. QUIT
ACTING LIKE
YOU'RE KING
OF THE
MOUNTAIN...

WHA-WHA-
WHAT'S WITH
YOU? THIS IS
NONSENSE!!

PEOPLE
SHOULD
WEAR
WHAT
SUITS
THEM.

HOW CAN
YOU SAY
THAT?! IT'S
SELFISHNESS!!

OH
MY...

Tsk.
REALLY?
WHAT IF...

DON'T
LET HIM
BRAINWASH
YOU!!!

...YUKI WORE
THE GIRLS'
UNIFORM?

YOU'RE
THE ONE
WHO JUST
DECIDED
IT WAS
OVER!!

(*note see chapters 13 -14)

LEAVE
HER OUT
OF IT!!

HEY
THERE.
WHAT DO
YOU THINK?
MOMIJI, FOR
EXAMPLE.
DON'T YOU
THINK HE
LOOKS GOOD
LIKE THAT?

EEP!

President

NO! YOU'RE
BOTH CRAZY,
STUPID!!

PRESIDENT,
SNAP OUT
OF IT!

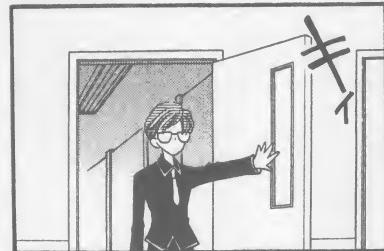
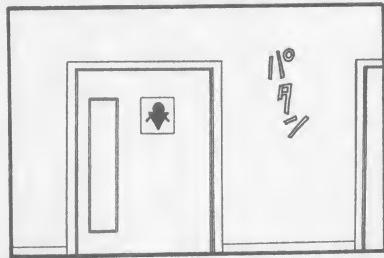
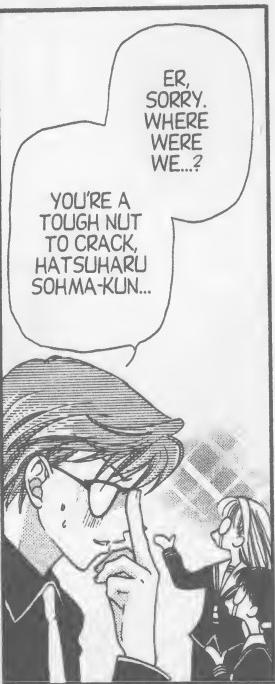
HE'LL
LOOK VERY
HANDSOME.
CAN YOU
IMAGINE IT?
WON'T BE BETTER
FOR HIM TO
START WEARING
THE BOYS'
UNIFORM
THEN?

HE'LL
GET
BIGGER
SOON.

TOHRI, DO
YOU WANT A
LOLLIPOP?

He's already
bored.

YOU RAN
AWAY FROM
OUR LAST
FIGHT
WITH
YOUR TAIL
BETWEEN
YOUR
LEGS!!



WHAT'S
WRONG? WE
CAN DO IT
WITHOUT
ACTUALLY EMBRAC--

WHY DON'T
WE JUST
CUT TO
THE CHASE
AND DO IT.

HM? DO
YOU REALLY
WANT TO
KNOW?

HUH?

...ing.

IT'S
OVER NOW,
HONDA-SAN.
DON'T LET
IT WORRY
YOU...

UH...
UM...

I CAN'T
HANDLE
IT WHEN
HE TURNS
BLACK...

BLACK
...

DID HE
SHOW
HIM...?

HE
SHOWED
HIM.

THE
EVIDENCE IS
IRREFUTABLE.

THE WORLD
IS FILLED
WITH THINGS
I HAVE YET TO
COMPREHEND...

BUT!

FOR
TODAY,
I HAVE
LOST...

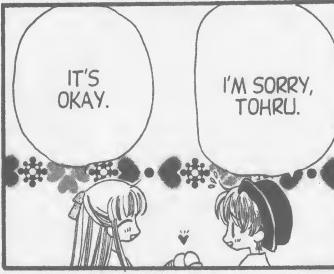
...NEXT TIME,
IT WON'T BE
SO EASY.
I WILL HAVE
MY REVENGE
ON ALL OF
YOU!

WHAT DID
HE COME
HERE FOR,
ANYWAY?

Ugh...
UM...

WHAT DID
YOU DO IN THE
RESTROOM TO
PROVE THAT'S
YOUR NATURAL
COLOR?

ARE
THEY
DONE
TALKING
NOW?







Chapter 20

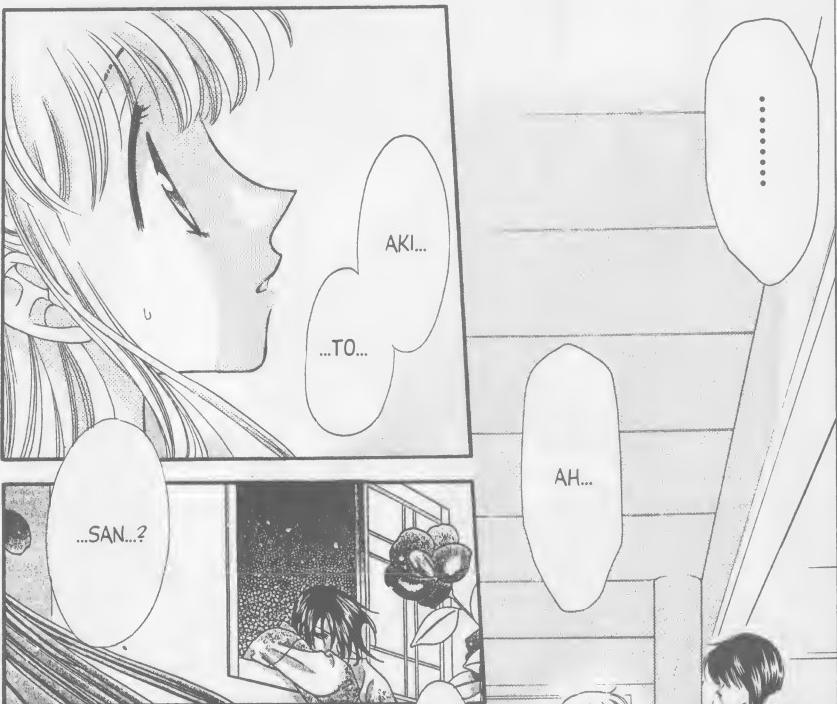




ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH 2

Akkii, Akkii, poisonous Akkii... My Mabudachi Akkii!
Ha ha! (Er...sorry, inside joke.) I'm sure he slaps a cynical
smile on the faces of the people who like him and the people who
hate him. Mmm, poison. I actually meant to have him show up
in the first volume, but looking back at it now, I'm glad I didn't.
Better to draw things out...

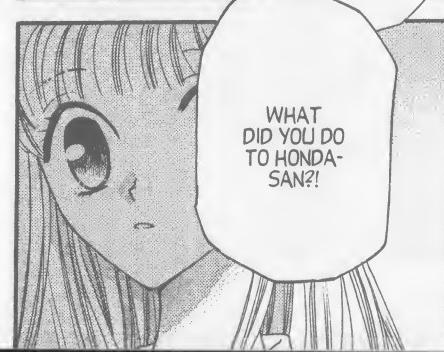
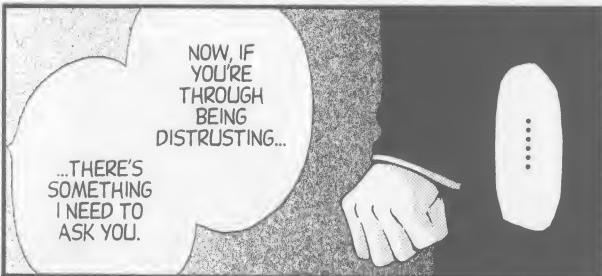






Fruits Basket 4
Part 2:

At the end of this book, I inserted a manga advertising the CD drama. It's a special offer, so it won't be on sale to the general public. And it's past the deadline to apply! Ha ha! Thank you very much for sending so many applications. I'll say clearly that I am in love with the Furuba CD. It's such a fun CD! I can't thank the voice actors who performed in it enough. I've shed so many tears of gratitude that my eyes have just about gone dry. What I find interesting is that even while listening to the lines, I split them into panels. I wonder if this is what they call an occupational hazard. I even break things into panels when I'm watching TV!





...TO REMIND
YOU WHO YOU
REALLY ARE

I MAY HAVE
NO CHOICE
BUT TO PUT
YOU IN THAT
SPECIAL
ROOM JUST
FOR YOU...

...FOR A
DAY...



WHY
WOULD
YOU DO
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT?

IT HURTS
ME DEEPLY
WHEN YOU
DO THINGS
LIKE THAT...

I MAY
HAVE NO
CHOICE
BUT TO
TEACH YOU
ANOTHER
LESSON.

...AND
AFTER I'VE
BEEN SO
LENIENT
LATELY.

...SKIP
OUT ON
NEW
YEAR'S?

WHY DID
YOU...





LET'S DO SOMETHING FUN!!

YUKI-KUN!!

THE THING I WANT TO UNDERSTAND THE MOST...

...IS WHY AKITO-SAN WOULD HATE ME!

IT'S A SPECIAL OCCASION, SO LET'S ALL DO SOMETHING TOGETHER!!

I WANT THE FEAR OF AKITO IN YUKI-KUN'S HEART...

...SO LIO-CHAN, HANA-CHAN AND I DECIDED TO HAVE SOME FUN.

SCHOOL GETS OUT EARLY TODAY...

YES?!

HONDA-SAN...

REALLY... DID AKITO SAY ANYTHING... ANYTHING STRANGE TO YOU?

REALLY ...

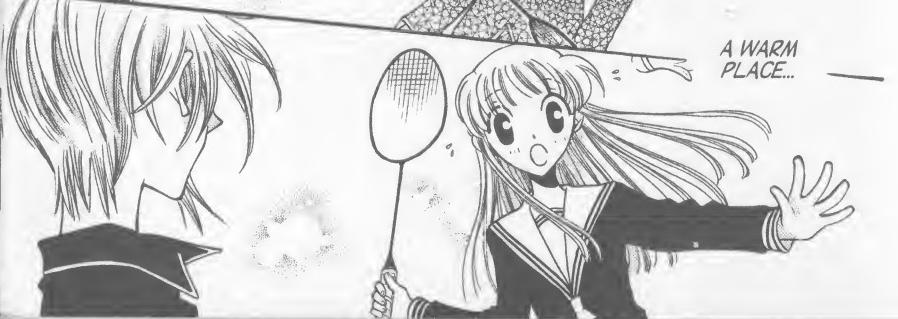
N-NO. HE DIDN'T.

HE REALLY WAS JUST SAYING HELLO...

BUT...







IT'S
GETTING
DARK.

TIME
FLIES
WHEN
YOU'RE
HAVING
FUN...

I KNOW
IT DOES.

IT EXISTS...

A WARM
PERSON.



I WONDER IF
HE'S ALSO A
MEMBER OF
THE CHINESE
ZODIAC...?

HE'S A VERY
DIFFICULT
PERSON TO
DESCRIBE.

TO BE
HONEST, HE
SCARED ME
A LITTLE.

WELL...



TODAY I
MET THE
HEAD OF
THE SOHMA
FAMILY.

...SHOULD WE...

MOM...



Our ride
home is
sick of
waiting.
I GUESS
WE'LL BE
GOING, TOO.

Y-YOU'RE...
GOING HOME...?

uh-
you!

Y-YES...?

HONDA-
SAN...

WH...WHY
IS WAVE
GIRL THE
ONLY ONE...

...WHO'S
NOT
DYING...?!

...THANK
YOU.

WELL,
SEE YOU
TOMORROW,
TOHRU-
KUN...

せ

せ

wheeze



I WAS
WORRIED...

...BUT IT
LOOKS
LIKE HE'S
OKAY.

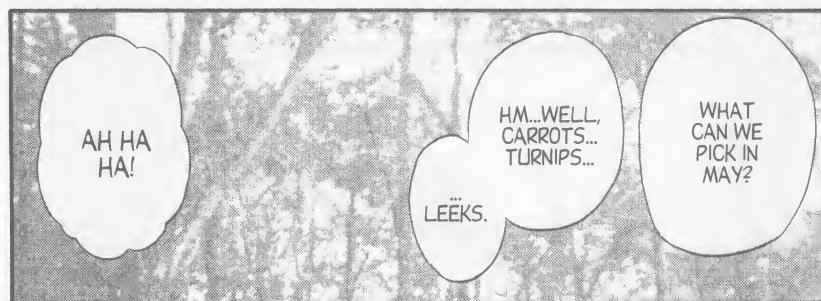
YUKI, I
MEAN.





Chapter 21

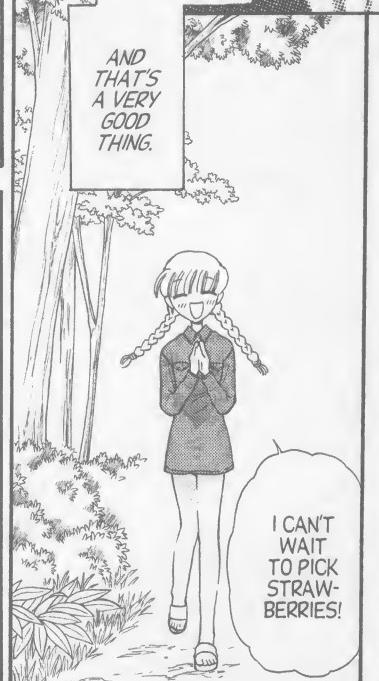
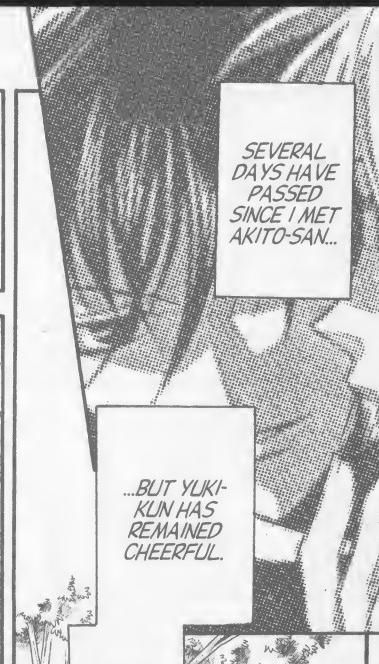




ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH 3

Enter the moron...er, I mean--the older brother! He was dragged into the story pretty late, huh? He's very popular, though not as popular as the Mabudachi Trio!

Sometimes people tell me that a character of mine looks like some famous person and it kind of hurts my feelings because I work so hard to create original characters! For some reason, it doesn't bother me if people compare my characters to each other, though.



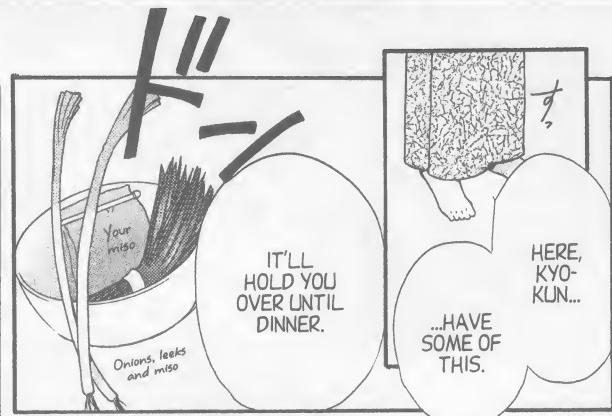
Fruits Basket 4
Part 3:

I went to my first autograph session—at the HanaYume festival. There were so many people, I got nervous! I wanted to say, "I'm not that great," you know? (I'm really not.) I even got presents. Thank you.

I thought of getting a Furuba print club, too, but the line was so long I gave up. (By the way, I've never taken a print club picture. There actually are people who haven't.) But I was very happy to have people thank me so sincerely. I really felt they meant it.

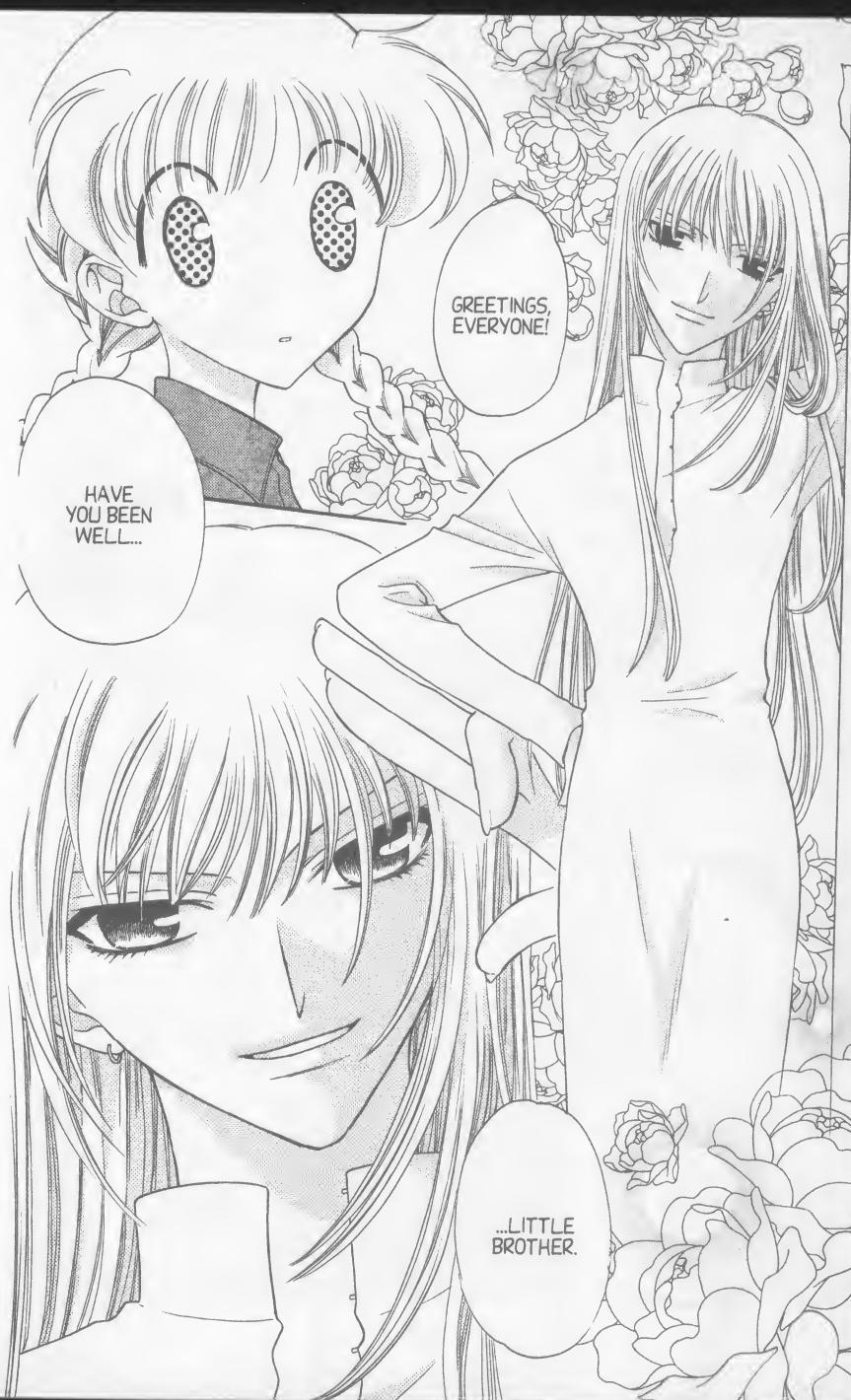
Anyway, did you enjoy the Hana-Yume festival? I'm very happy because I got a Hanya* plush toy! (Ha ha!)

*A character from the Hana to Yume comic, "Uchuu no Hate kara Konnichi wa."

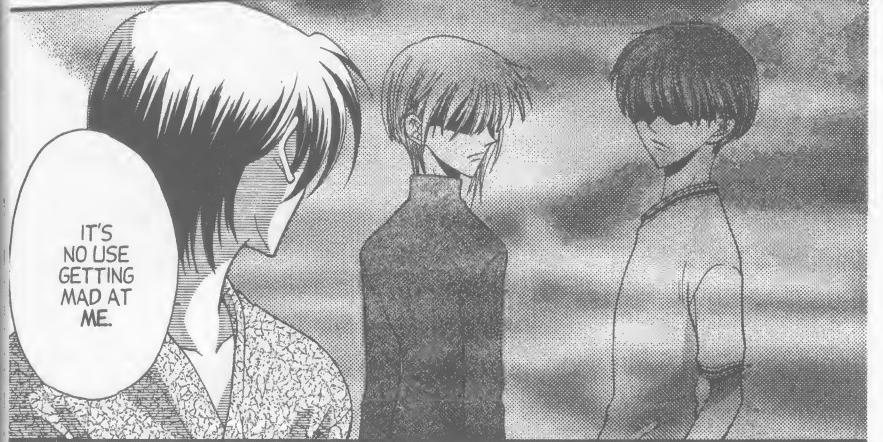






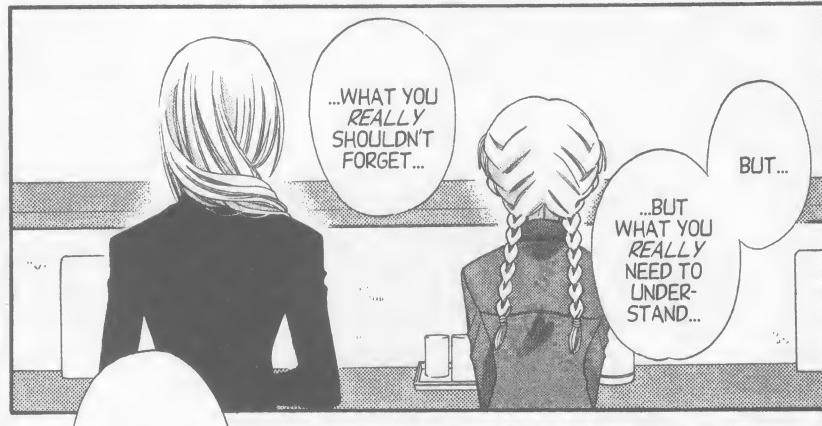






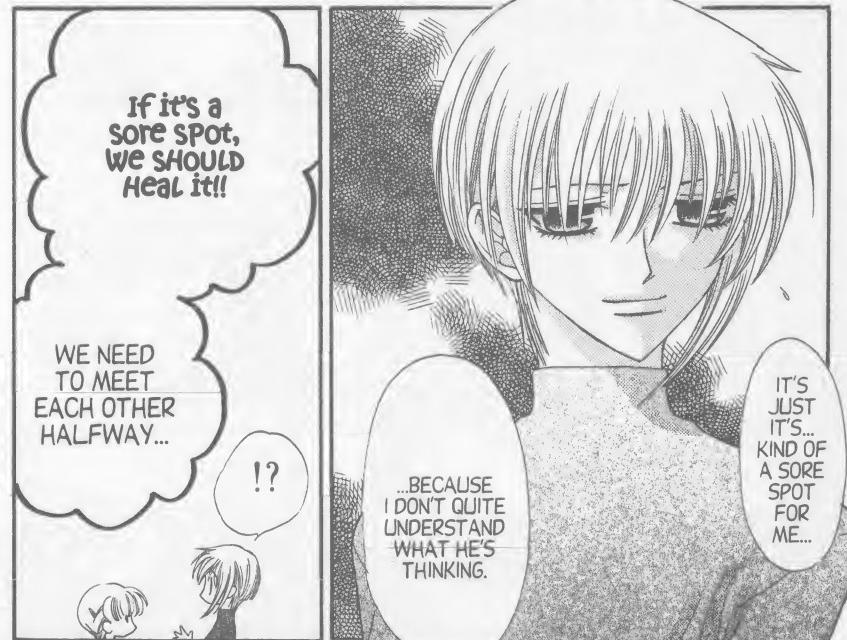






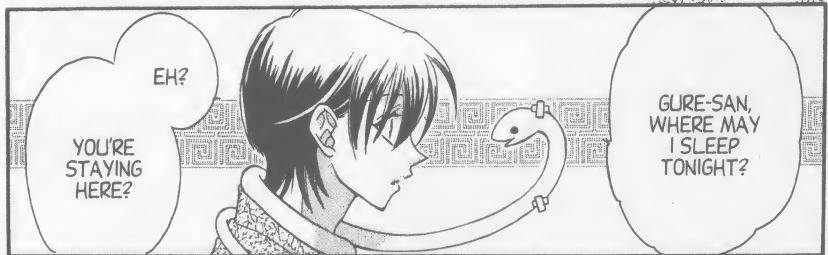


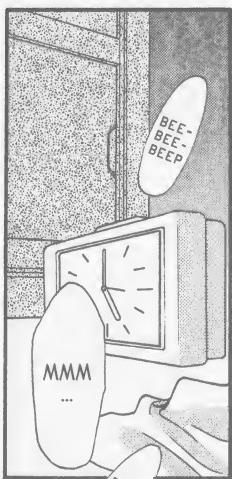
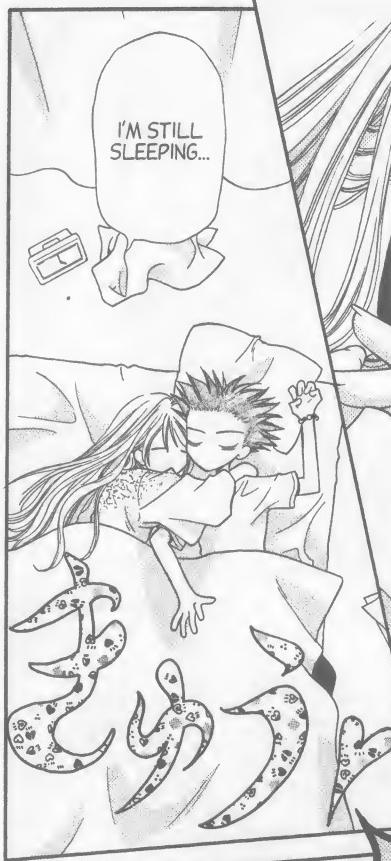






Chapter 22





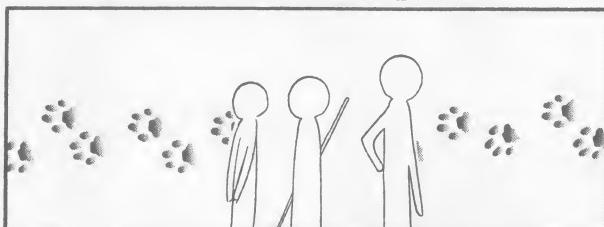
ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH 4

People who like stuff like that, really like it. But I'd like it if they'd stop getting my manga involved... ^-^-- I'm kidding! The Mabudachi trio's years in high school are actually pretty muddled. They were still kids. They're probably the way they are now because of their "flower," but it wasn't always fun.

Gya!
Rahr!



Fruits Basket 4
Part 4:
As usual, I'm playing video games. I play so many that I can't list them all. I'm stuck on the last boss in Persona 2....With the Megami Tensei series, I'm the type who, once stopped, takes a while to get back to it. I stopped playing Persona 1 for several months before I finally beat it. I'm also stopped in the middle of "Ore-Shika" (Ed: short for "Ore no Shikabane o Koete Yuke." Not published in the U.S.). It looks like I just can't go on. It's interesting. I wonder why I can't go on...? Actually, I bet I know why--the older I get, the harder it is for me to concentrate. It's scary. I think there are a bunch of other games I'm playing too much. This has nothing to do with it, but my handwriting is really bad.





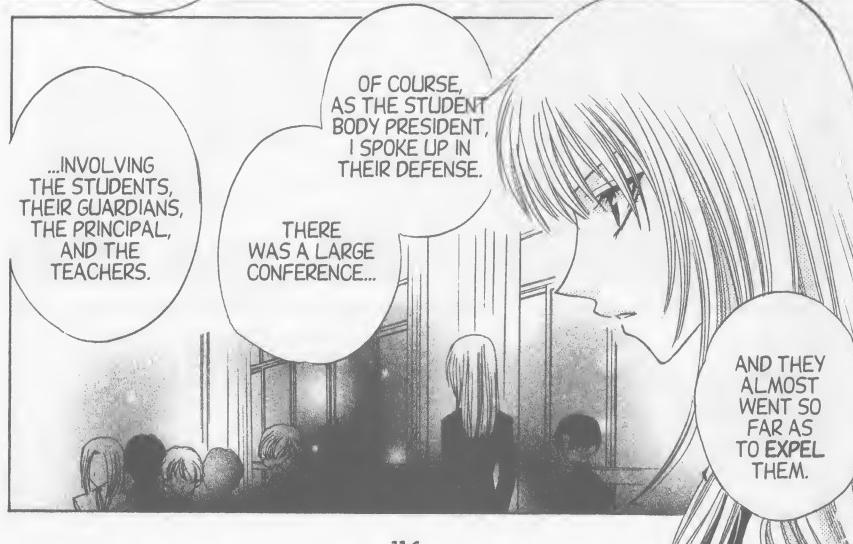








RULES ARE MADE TO BE FOLLOWED, IT'S SAID. IF THEY ARE NOT, ORDER IS LOST.











I'M SORRY TO TROUBLE YOU LIKE THIS.



HOW IS IT
THAT HE...

...ALWAYS
SAYS WHAT
I WANT HIM
TO SAY?

I REALLY
CAN'T
COMPETE
WITH YOU...

...TORI-
SAN...

...AT THAT
SORT OF
THING.

I'M
REALLY...

...BAD...

Heh
heh.

SHE
SPENDS
ALL HER
ENERGY
HELPING
OTHER
PEOPLE.

HOW...

YUKI'S
NOT
STUPID.

HE'S
JUST...

HE'S
STILL A
CHILD.

OH, BUT
I DO!

I JUST
CAN'T SEEM
TO GET YUKI
TO OPEN
UP.

THERE ARE
STILL A
LOT OF
THINGS...

...HE CAN'T
GIVE UP.

THERE'S
NO RUSH.

...
RESEMBLES
YOU A
LITTLE.

TOHRU-
KUN...

THEN PERHAPS
YOU SHOULD
CONSIDER
YOUR ACTIONS
NEXT TIME...





Chapter 23



"THINKING THAT WAY IS MORE FUN."





ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH 5

They don't match at all!! The chapter title page and the actual contents!! (I have no one to blame but myself.) Whether for good or ill, my mother is a big part of my life, so I can't think of Tohru or Momitchi as strangers. Well, they're not strangers! Each character that I create is an extension of myself. They're closer to me than if they were my children.

THANK YOU!



Harada-sama, Araki-sama,
mother, editor-sama ...and
everyone who reads Furuba and
supports me!

This has been Natsuki Takaya.

Next is Kagura, a flower. After that will be Momitchi, then Hatori--in the order they appeared in the series (that way, you clearly know their names and faces). I'll keep going through the members of the Zodiac one after another. Of course, even if I haven't gotten to them all, when it's time for Furuba to end, it will end. This is an unpleasant topic, but it can't be avoided.

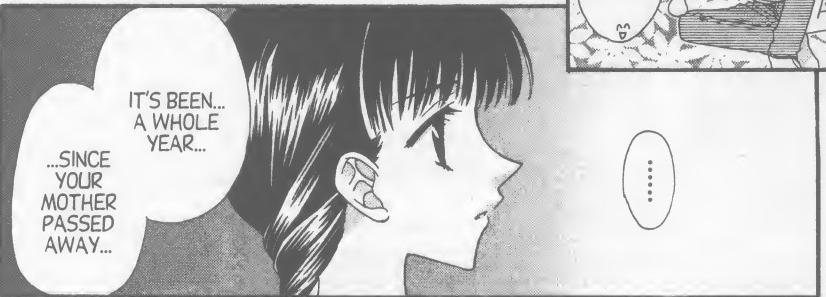


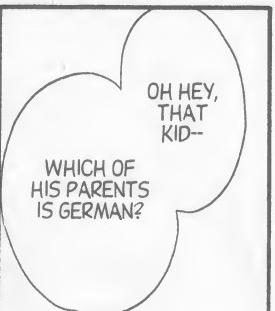
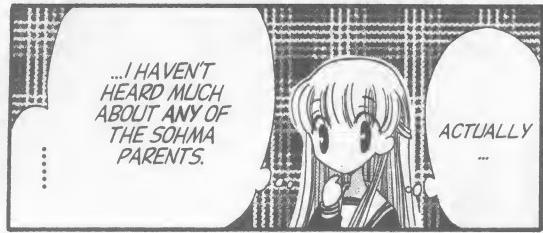
Fruits Basket 4
Part 5:

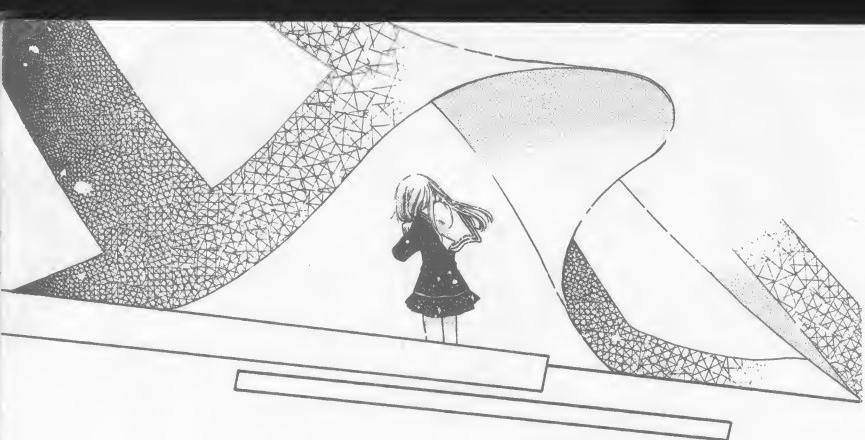
Marlow, from the RPG Kaeru Bibak, is adorable. I haven't seen the ending yet, but I'm really happy that the main character is female. In real life, I don't think I'd get along with Marlow, though. I mean, I think I'm the type of person Marlow hates! I always like the characters that wouldn't like me. Lately, I've been playing Chrono Cross. I wasn't interested before, but I saw the commercial in the game store and I thought, "I have to play it!!" I was caught in their trap. Completely! (ha ha!)











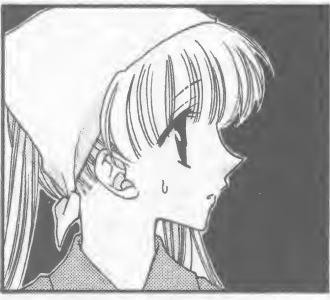


145











AND SO...

...I DIS-
APPEARED
FROM
MAMA'S
MEMORIES.

MAMA
EVENTUALLY
GOT BETTER.

IN TWO
MONTHS,
SHE COULD
SMILE
AGAIN.

...IS THAT THAT
CREATURE CAME
OUT OF MY BODY.

THE GREATEST
REGRET I HAVE
IN THIS LIFE....

ARE YOU
REALLY

...ARE YOU
REALLY
OKAY WITH
FORGETTING?

YOU WON'T...
REGRET IT?

YOUR
MAMA'S
CASE SEEMS
HOPELESS
NOW.
BUT...

...THEY SAY
THAT IF SHE
FORGETS
ABOUT YOU,
SHE MIGHT
GET BETTER.

I IMAGINE
THIS WILL
BE REALLY
HARD FOR
BOTH US.

BUT PAPA
WILL LOVE
YOU MORE
THAN
ENGLISH FOR

IF YOU LOVE
MAMA TOO...

...WILL YOU
HELP HER?

IF I KEEP
THEM AND
KEEP TRYING,
WITHOUT
RUNNING AWAY...

EVEN...

...I WANT...

...TO LIVE
WITH ALL MY
MEMORIES.

...IF I KEEP
TRYING, THEN
SOMEDAY...

...SOME-
DAY I'LL BE
STRONG ENOUGH
THAT THOSE
MEMORIES
CAN'T DEFEAT
ME.

I
BELIEVE
THAT.

...EVEN IF
THEY'RE
MEMORIES
THAT I'D
RATHER
FORGET.

EVEN IF
THEY'RE SAD
MEMORIES.

EVEN IF
THEY'RE
MEMORIES
THAT ONLY
HURT ME.

AND...

HE'S BEEN
WATCHING
OVER HER ALL
THIS TIME.
HASN'T HE?

I WONDER
IF I REALLY
HELPED MAMA.

"She's
soooo
cute!"

QUIETLY...

...FROM
FAR
AWAY...

...I THINK...

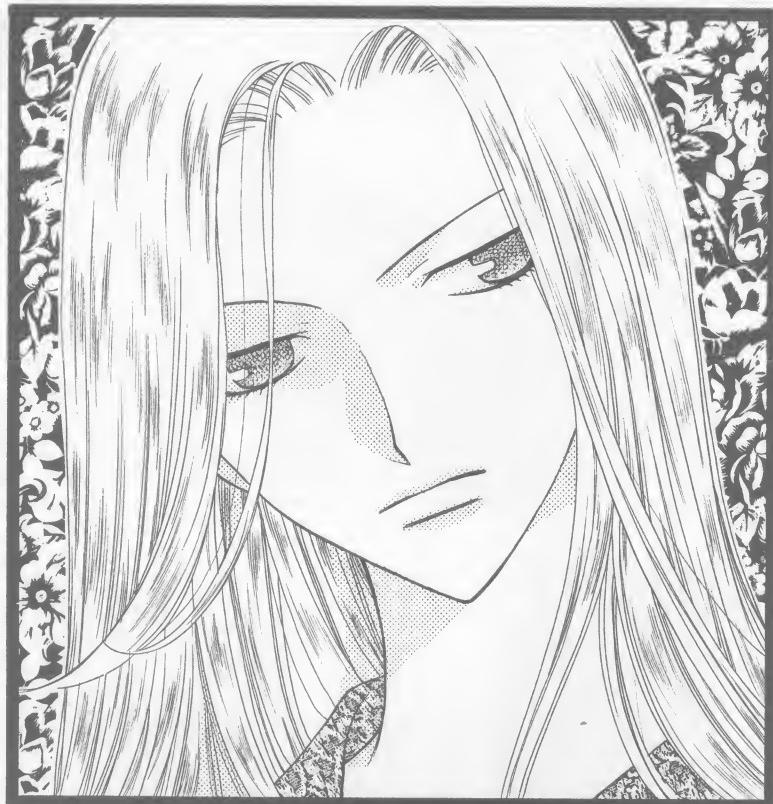
...HE WAS
PROBABLY
HERE TO SEE
HIS MOTHER.
WHEN I MET
HIM HERE
THE FIRST
TIME...

BUT...

...SO SHE
WOULDN'T
SEE HIM.







Chapter 24





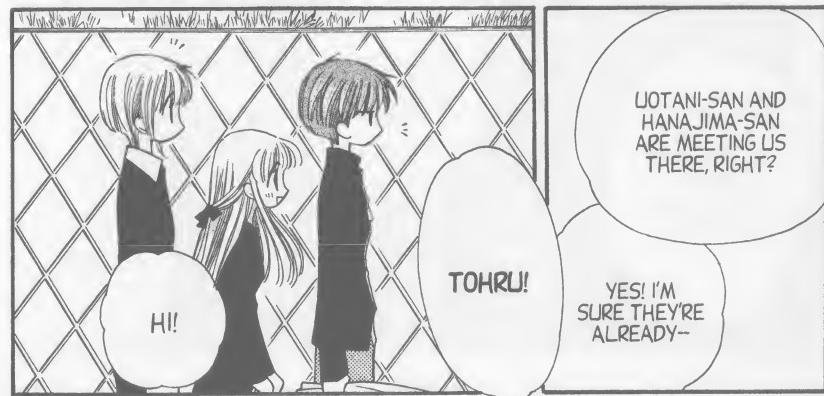
165

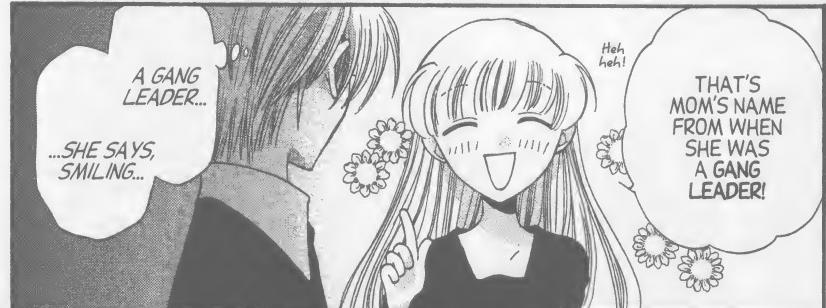
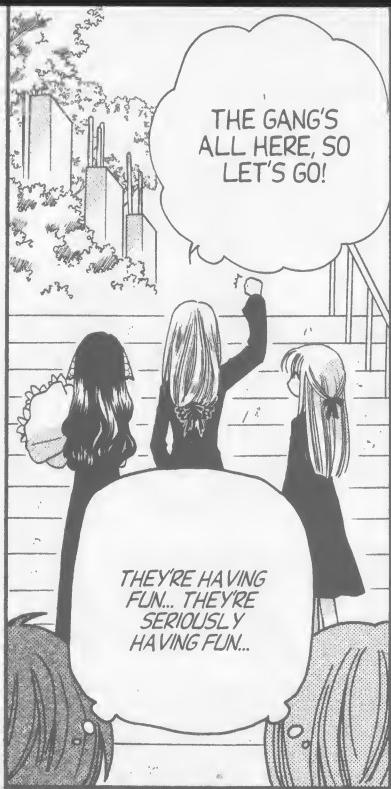


ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH 6

This is where volume 4 ends!! This one's been really talky!! (But once again, I have no one to blame but myself.) But it's okay! (What is?) A lot of people told me they thought they should have kissed. Sorry, but I didn't want them to, and as the author, it's up to me...

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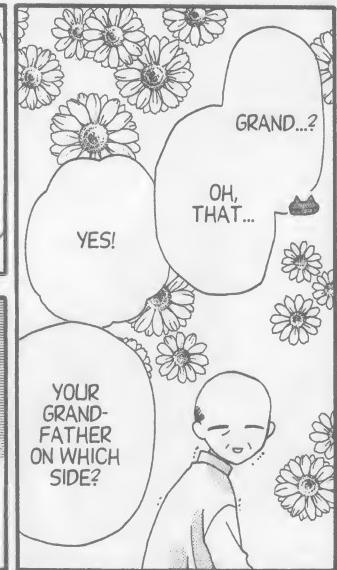
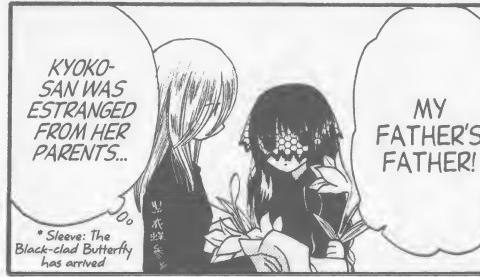


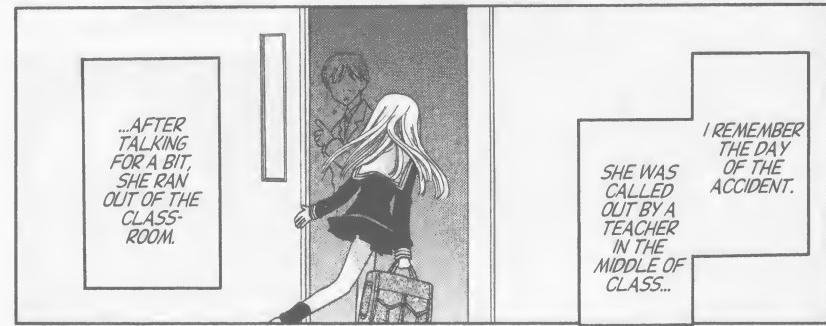
Fruits Basket 4
Part 6:

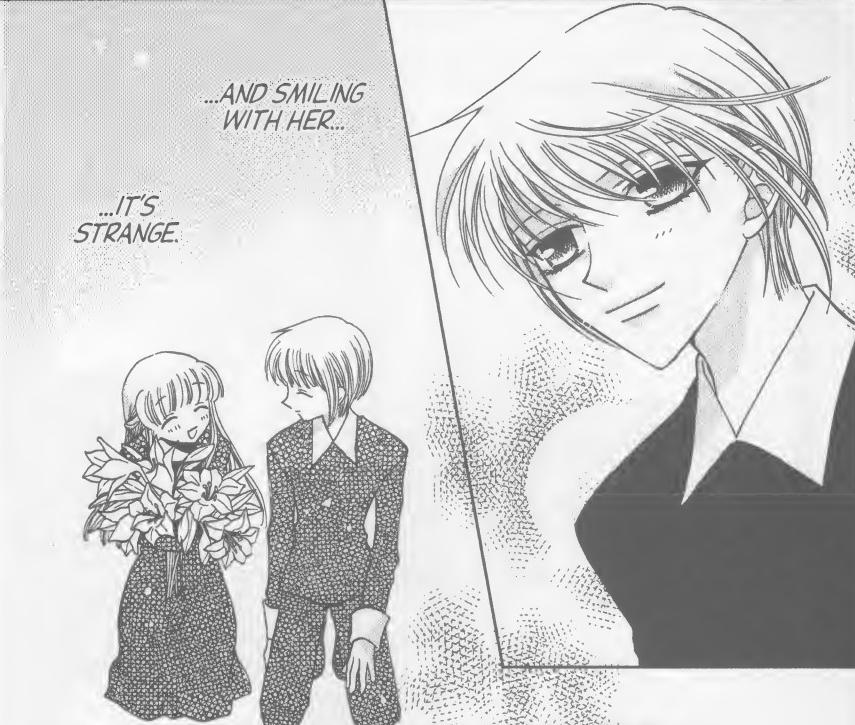
I started crying when I saw the opening. I thought, "How very, very sad!" And "Oh, poor Serge. I want to protect him." That's proof that I'm totally hooked! He's like Cloud. (But it's worse for Cloud.)

Square really does always have good music. I played Chrono Trigger on Su-Fami [Super Nintendo], so the music brought back a lot of memories. Oh, but I cried. It's so sad! I'm also playing Tokimeki Memorial [a popular romance sim].

I'm getting called Takaya-kun. And while I'm doing all this, I'm waiting for Sakura [Taisen] to come out...



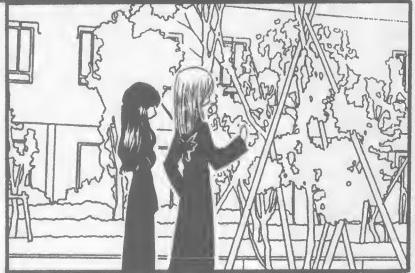








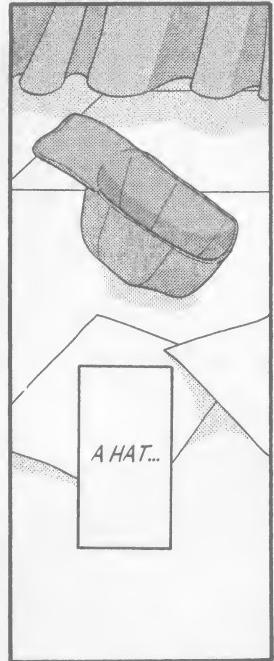
木田家











WHAT
SHOULD I
CALL...



BONUS CHAPTER



HA HA HA!
WELL,
OBVIOUSLY,
TOHRU-KUN...

...IT WILL HAVE LOTS...

**YOU'RE COMPLETELY
WRONG, SHIGURE-SAN!**



...AND DISAPPOINTMENT!

I'M TIRED
OF THIS.

WELL, IT WILL BE AND IT WON'T BE!

HEY,
AYAME, I'M
TELLING
YOU THIS
NOW--

I WON'T
BE IN IT.

Are you
listening?

YOU
MUSTN'T
BE SO
LAZY...

WASABI

YOU'LL
JUST HAVE TO
LISTEN AND
FIND OUT WHAT
IT'S ABOUT.

IT DOESN'T
MATTER
WHAT IT'S
ABOUT...

...THE
IMPORTANT
THING IS THAT /
WILL BE IN IT.

I AM NOT
AN IDIOT!

BUT
YOU'RE
AN IDIOT.

**THE CAST OF FRUITS BASKET ON
A SUMMER DAY...**

Nageshi
Soumen!

**...WILL FORCE A PATH TO THE NOODLE
FLUME OF LOVE AND COURAGE...**

*Nageshi Soumen: Momiijii means to say "Nageshi soumen." This is a type of noodle that is served in a bamboo flume. As the noodles flow down the flume, diners pick them out with chopsticks.

Next time in...

Fruits Basket

5

Mitsui Takaya

Enter the Tiger...

The Sohma household takes to the lake for a vacation at their summer-house. However, the peaceful silence is deafening, as Yuki and Kyo are once again not on speaking terms. Will Tohru's klutzy kindness get the dueling duo back to their old cat-and-mouse antics once again?

Fruits Basket Volume 5
Available October 2004



The FruitsBasket special CD set is not for sale in bookstores, music stores, or fruit stores.

Let's read the ordering directions carefully...

We interrupt this manga with an important announcement: As of September, 1999, this CD set is no longer available at all. We apologize for the inconvenience.

Bonus Chapter/
The End



Character sketches for Genoimusou

12) Do you have a favorite game to recommend?

I like so many that it's hard to name just one. I'd recommend the *Sakura Taisen* series—that's really fun.

13) What do you think makes a good game?

I like it when games do stuff manga can't. Just like how there's stuff you can only do in manga, there are things you can only do in video games. I think games where you really feel it's a "game" are best.

14) Are there any game characters you really like?

I really love cute and strong girls with a bit of a dark side. I have more trouble finding male characters I like.

15) Do you work on your webpage "Chotto Ippuku"(A Short Break) by yourself?

Yes, I do it myself. That's why it's never updated...

[editor's note: Her website is no longer active.]

16) What was the hardest part about making a webpage?

Hmm... Well, it was tough when I first started because I had nobody I could discuss things with. Those were rough times, but now I have a lot of friends who can help me out.

Interview with Takaya-sensei Part 2

About Takaya-sensei's Hobbies

9) What kind of music and musical artists do you like?

Lately I've been listening to a lot of video game music. Songs, too. I like Nematsu-san and Hikaruda-san's music. I like how the video game music perfectly matches the world in the game. That's wonderful, but when I listen to the battle music it makes me want to fight, so sometimes I do and that gets me in trouble (ha ha!).

10) What movies and TV shows do you like?

These are old movies but...*Field of Dreams* and *Laputa: Castle in the Sky*. I don't watch much TV. Sometimes I think I should watch, but... It just gets in the way, like when I need to be working on my manga.

11) You often talk about video games in your freetalks. What type of games do you like?

I pretty much like any type of game, but I'm never very good at action ones.



Character sketches for Tsubasa o Matsumono

Year of the Dog: Letting the Dogs Out



Like Shigure, other Dogs are gifted with the ability to see people for who they really are. As such, Dogs make for excellent advice-givers, as they can so easily see another's shortcomings and quickly point them out in a sensitive, objective and non-hurtful way.

Though Dogs are often cold emotionally and seem distant when in a crowd, they are actually very warm-hearted and love to make friends. Interestingly enough, friendships are often long-lasting, because Dogs always love to listen to others and the friends can never seem to get enough of a Dog's keen advice. Fittingly, a relationship with a Dog is much like the bond between a canine and its master—monogamous and loyal to the end.

Celebrity Dogs:
Alec Baldwin
Kirsten Dunst
Jennifer Lopez
Carrie Anne Moss
Uma Thurman
Snoopy

Dog

Years*: 1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006, 2018, 2030
Positive Qualities: Honest, faithful, generous, studious, energetic
Negative Qualities: Quiet, cynical, stubborn, eccentric, pessimistic
Suitable Jobs: Writer, teacher, activist, politician, secret agent
Compatible With: Horse, Snake, Monkey, Boar
Must Avoid: Rooster, Ox, Sheep
Ruling Hours: 7 PM to 9 PM
Season: Fall
Ruling Month: October
Sign Direction: West-Northwest
Fixed Element: Metal
Corresponding Western Sign: Libra

Possessing the best traits humanity has to offer, Dogs are natural-born leaders and inspire confidence in others. They seldom lose their temper when antagonized, but when they do, it is a surefire way to clear the air around them. These flare-ups can turn hardened rivals into allies as the harsh words being said are never used to air out the other person's dirty laundry or stab them in the back; it is simply a way toward a meeting of minds. Compromise also factors heavily into the Dogs' everyday life and personal dealings with people, as it often leads to much-needed respect and success in their chosen career. Though money is of little value to Dogs, they are never at a loss for finding ways to rake it in when they truly need it.

* Note: If you were born in January or early February, then chances are you are probably the animal of the preceding year. The only way to know for certain is to know on which day Chinese New Year's was held. Example: 1982 actually began on January 25, so anyone born from January 1 to January 24 is actually a Rooster.

About *Fruits Basket*

17) When and how did you come up with *Fruits Basket*?

I was slowly working on it in my mind as I was finishing up my last series, *Tsubasa wo matsu mono* (*Those with Wings*). But all the final details didn't come together until after "Boku ga utauto anata ga warau kara," (*Because When I Sing You Smile*) a one-shot I did before *Furuba* started. I kept thinking there wasn't enough time, but it all came to me inside my head. Tohru just appeared and said "Hello!" The rest came together pretty easily after that.

18) Were there any other title possibilities besides *Fruits Basket*?

There kind of were... Though I'm happy I chose *Fruits Basket*, it's easy to say and remember.

19) Why did you choose the Zodiac animals as a motif?

Basically, I like them a lot and assumed everyone else would, too. Japanese culture is captivating, right?

20) What's the most important thing when creating the plot or doing the rough sketches?

The pacing and dialog, and of course whether it's fun to read. You can't forget what's at the heart of making a reader laugh or cry.

21) In the works you do, the story and tone are often different, but they seem to share an underlying theme. What's your theme?

I'm happy to hear that, thank you very much. As long as I'm creating it, I don't think the underlying theme will ever change. (Actually, if it changed, then there would be no point...) But I don't think the theme needs to be put into words. It's something that the reader experiences for themselves. At least, that's my company line, but sometimes I think I'd like to be able to express it in words. (ha ha!)

Read the rest of the interview with Takaya-sensei in Volume 5!

Add more "Fruits" to your Basket! Collect them all!



Volume 1

Tohru Honda was an orphan with no place to go until the mysterious Sohma family offered her a place to call home. Now her ordinary high school life is turned upside-down as she's introduced to the Sohma's world of magical curses and family secrets. Discover for yourself the Secret of the Zodiac in the first volume of *Fruits Basket*!



Volume 2

Ever since Tohru Honda discovered the Zodiac secret of the Sohma clan, her eyes have been opened to a world of magic and wonder. But with such a great secret comes great responsibility. When her best friends Hana-chan and Uo-chan come to the Sohma house for a sleepover, Tohru has her work cut out for her keeping the "Cat" in the bag and the "Dog" on a leash.



Volume 3

It's Valentine's Day and you know what that means-- lots of chocolates for the cutest boys at school! In this case, it's a pretty close tie between hot-headed Kyo Sohma and Yuki "prince charming" Sohma. Of course the kind-hearted Tohru, guest of the Sohma family, has chocolates for everyone! But when White Day comes around, what will the Sohma family give back? How about a trip to the family hot springs?! Also, a new member of the Zodiac shows up at school to lay the "MOO"ves on Kyo.

SOUND EFFECT INDEX

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF THE SOUND EFFECTS USED IN FRUITS BASKET. EACH SOUND IS LABELED BY PAGE AND PANEL NUMBER, SEPARATED BY A PERIOD. THE FIRST DESCRIPTION IS THE PHONETIC READING OF THE JAPANESE, AND IS FOLLOWED BY THE EQUIVALENT ENGLISH SOUND OR A DESCRIPTION.

79.3	patan: shut	16.4	pon: pat
81.3	bon: poof	16.5	zuoooo: (creepy aura)
81.5	hira: flutter	17.3	pekkka: perky
81.6	shuu: rustle	19.2	goh: slam
81.7	sura: slide	24.1	bah: block
86.1	ban x 2: slap	28.3	gyoh: shock
86.4	guii: grab	28.5	gah: grab
95.2a	hal: gasp	29.2	bun x 3: shake
95.2b	jii: stare	31.1	kira x 4: sparkle
96.2	zuun: slump	32.1	kira x 3: sparkle
99.2	zuri: slide	33.4	zuru x 3: drag
100.1	don doka gashan: crash bang pow	33.5	patan: shut
103.2	gyuu: squeeze		
103.3	gaba: stumble		
112.5	gashii: grab		
117.5	ban!: slam		
118.1	zudoon: (fanfare)		
119.3	zuru x 3: drag		
121.5	pori x 2: scratch		
123.1	suku: stand		
124.5	gutari: confused		
129.1	gashi x 2: scrub		
129.2	gashi x 3: scrub		
140.5	bata x 4: pitter patter		
144.3	pal: shine		
159.4	bon: poof		
161.3	dan x 2: clack		
186.4	wasa x 3: rub		
186.5	bikuu: twitch		
187.1	kuu: snore		
188.2	patan: shut		
189.6	saa: rustle		
196.1	ta ta ka x 3: dash		
33.6	kii: creak		
35.2	goh: slam		
35.4	pachi: (wake up)		
35.5	mukuri: rise		
36.1	gakkuu: slump		
36.2	kifin koon: (school bells)		
75.1	ha!: gasp		
75.5	zah: rush		
77.1	su: shuffle		
77.2	don: ta-da!		
77.5	gui: squeeze		



THE "SOUND" OF SPARKLING, USED FOR LITERAL SPARKLING AND FOR GLAMOR SHOTS. IN SHOUJO MANGA, SPARKLES ARE A COMMON ACCESSORY TO BISHOUNEN--ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY'RE SHOWN DRESSED IN A GIRLS' UNIFORM LIKE YUKI!!